

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #  
**104-9**

USGS Quad  
**Hanover**

Area

Form #  
**31**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **321 State Street**

Historic Name **Howland House**

Use: Present **residence**

Original **residence**

Date **before 1830 or c. 1840**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Greek Revival/end house**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**

Wall/Trim **aluminum**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **see description**

Major Alterations **none**

Condition **good**

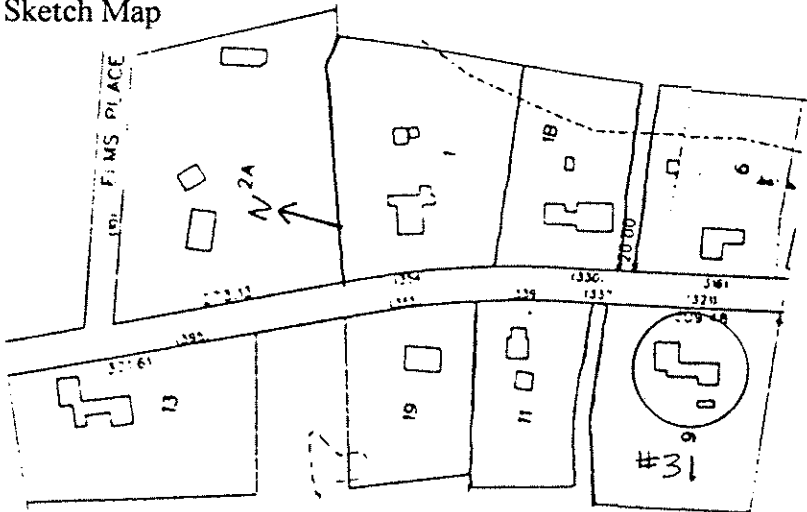
Moved **possibly**

Acreage **1.13 acres**

Setting **rural residential**



Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical  
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Howland House at 321 State Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story end house in the Greek Revival style. The recessed porch along the left-side elevation to the service wing is a characteristic present on a number of small-scale houses in Hanson though usually with a gable block form. The presence of this feature on an end house is rare. The end house was generally popular beginning in the second-quarter of the nineteenth century throughout New England but in Hanson the popularity of the various gable-block forms apparently postponed the wholesale adoption of the end house. The recessed porch screens three windows and an entry into the wing. The interior space of this three-bay wide by three-bay deep gabled mass is augmented by a one-story gabled service wing on the left-side elevation. The four-bay wing has a narrow entry at the second bay. Like many dwellings in Hanson this service wing connects to the New England style barn. The second story of the main mass is augmented by small shed-roofed dormers on each side elevation at the second pile. Typically on Greek Revival-styled dwellings classically derived detailing is used to accent door openings, the corners and the cornice line. On the Howland House, however, some of this detailing has been lost, perhaps when the house was resided. Remaining ornamentation includes fluted Doric columns supporting the recessed porch and a wide entablature. The house is located near a small cluster of end houses in a rural residential area.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Until well into the twentieth century State Street and much of the northeast section of Hanson remained largely rural with houses scattered along the primary arteries. The 1830 map shows a Howland House at this location along with a few other dwellings scattered along the southern half of State Street. In contrast with the map evidence Joseph White dates the house to the 1840s, constructed by Luther Howland. That date is consistent with the house's present appearance. The present owner, however, indicates the house was built in 1713 and used as the parsonage house of Pembroke's western parish until its removal to its present location in the early nineteenth century. Additional research is necessary to clarify the house's original date of construction. Historic maps show Howland owned the property for at least fifty years. During the 1850s Howland operated a store on this site until his failure in 1857. Just after the turn of the century the house still belonged to a family member, R.B. Howland. By the 1930s the house belonged to Winfield Hammond and now belongs to the third generation of that family.

## REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830  
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856  
Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879  
Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903  
White, Houses of Hanson

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

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Community  
**Hanson**

Property Address  
**321 State Street**

Area

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.